Setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Himachal Pradesh

†1183. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up some more Kendras with a view to setting up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has been sanctioned for each of the 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh.

Rebate on HSD Oil

1184. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government for sanction of fishermen development rebate on HSD oil scheme for the year 2005-2006 with a total outlay of Rs. 318.00 lakhs under 100 per cent assistance by the Centre;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, thereasons therefor;

(e) whether the required amount has already been allocated for the year 2005-06; and

(f) if not, the justification for not taking action on the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh for rebate on HSD oil has been examined by the Government and an amount of Rs. 60.00 lakhs has been sanctioned as central assistance.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government of Andhra Pradesh have not fully utilised the central share given to them during the previous years. Release of additional amount would be considered on receipt of utilization certificate and the progress report of the earlier years.

Making saline land fit for farming

1185. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seawater, after the tsunami strike, had left saline deposits on large tracks of agricultural land in affected states like Tamil Nadu as has been revealed by a soil test of 125 acres in some villages by the BITSunami Trust, who had adopted some villages in Nagapattinam district;

(b) whether any action has been taken to avoid permanent damage by removing topsoil layer in such affected villages to make the land fit for farming; and

(c) whether farming activities have resumed in all the tsunami-ravaged villages in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The intrusion of sea water due to Tsunami has affected the agricultural lands in several coastal districts including Nagapattinum in the State of Tamil Nadu. Based on salinity assessment of 42813 soil samples, measures like leaching of salts, scrapping of sand and silt, application of gypsum, green manuring, and use of salinity tolerant crops, etc. have been taken to improve the soils condition and make them fit for farming in the Tsunami affected fields.

(c) Out of 8460.34 hectares affected by Tsunami in Tamil Nadu, 5400.0 hectares have already been brought under cultivation. As regards Andhra Pradesh, soil condition has not deteriorated to affect the farming activities.